

**ABSTRACT** A thermal alarm clock including an alarm clock controller that activates a heating device to wake a slumbering person. The thermal alarm clock incorporates traditional alarm, clock, and radio functions as well. The heating device is located adjacent a sleeping person and can be activated with, or instead of, an audible alarm. A slumbering person will be gently awakened by the heat of the device instead of the jarring sound from an audible alarm clock. The thermal alarm clock is also effective at waking a single person from a plurality of sleepers and is effective for users with special needs, such as the hearing impaired or blind. In one embodiment, the thermal alarm clock incorporates sensors and circuitry to monitor a user's presence.